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New Head of C.I.A.

The success of the administration of any President of the United States is dependent to a considerable extent upon the men he appoints to key positions.

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Some editorial eyebrows are being lifted at President Johnson's surprise appointment of Vice Adm. W. F. Raborn Jr., USN retired, as director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

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This is no reflection on Raborn himself but merely a question whether he is the right man for the job. The Washington Post asks, "In an administration where the Pentagon already has so many advantages in budget, personnel and friends on Capitol Hill, and Mr. McNamara as the Cabinet's most forceful personality, is it wise to have a recently retired admiral in the key slot of supervising intelligence and covert operations?"

The New York Times points out that "the C.I.A. post should be a non-partisan, long-term appointment; it is absolutely essential for continuity and effectiveness that intelli-

gence be kept out of politics and that it be headed by men who will give to it major portions of their lives."

Adm. Raborn is 59, a Texan and was an outspoken Johnson supporter in last year's election.

These are reasonable criticisms of the appointment. But now that it has been made the public can take some comfort in the fact Adm. Raborn is a man of considerable ability which was shown in his management and administration of the Polaris submarine missile program and he is respected both in the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill.

Even more encouraging is the fact that Richard Helms has been put in as deputy director. Helms is an able CIA veteran who can compensate for Raborn's lack of experience in the intelligence field.

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Unfortunately, President Johnson has raised some doubts by his appointment of the admiral to a top post in a major branch of the government which, of necessity, is surrounded by much secrecy.